



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: C. Freitas et al. Attorney Docket No.: XANI117198
Application No.: 09/812,073 Group Art Unit: 2836
Filed: March 20, 2001 Examiner: R.L. Deberadinis
Title: ENERGY CONVERSION APPARATUS

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RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101
May 5, 2003

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. In an Office Action mailed January 3, 2003, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In view of the comments that follow, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1, as well as certain dependent claims stemming therefrom, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,764,684, issued to Fiorina et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,084,772, issued to Pell et al. The Office Action admits that Fiorina et al. do not disclose a heat insulating cover operable to mate with a base so as to form a sealed space bounded by the cover and the base to prevent ingress of moisture. The Office Action cites Pell et al. as disclosing an electronic enclosure for power electronics, whereby a moisture permeable membrane provides for controlled moisture exchange with the external environment. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to provide a heat insulating cover operable to mate with the base so as to form a sealed space bounded by the cover and the base to prevent ingress of moisture to control the moisture level within a closed space. Applicants respectfully disagree.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100